The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Mary Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April determination of eligibility.	ith eligi	bility	detern	ninatio	ns in .	Febru	ary 20	001.
MARYLAND HISTO	RICAI	TRU	JST					
Eligibility Recommended								
Criteria:ABCD Considerations: _	A _	B _	C _	D _	E _	F _	_G_	_None
Comments:								
			Det	2 2	A1	2001		
Reviewer, OPS:_Anne E. Bruder				e:3				
Reviewer, NR Program: Peter E. Kurtze			Dat	e:3	April	2001_		

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number:

The State

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BRIDGES HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT	No.	AA-761	
-----	-----	--------	--

SHA Bridge No. 2054 Bridge name MD 214 over Patuxent River
<u>LOCATION:</u> Street/Road name and number [facility carried] MD 214
City/town Davidsonville Vicinity
County Anne Arundel
This bridge projects over: Road Railway Water X Land
Ownership: State X County Municipal Other
HISTORIC STATUS: Is bridge located within a designated historic district? Yes No X National Register-listed district National Register-determined-eligible district Other
Name of district
BRIDGE TYPE: Timber Bridge: Beam Bridge: Truss -Covered Trestle Timber-And-Concrete
Stone Arch Bridge
Metal Truss Bridge X
Movable Bridge: Swing Bascule Single Leaf Bascule Multiple Leaf Vertical Lift Retractile Pontoon
Metal Girder: Rolled Girder Rolled Girder Concrete Encased Plate Girder Plate Girder Concrete Encased
Metal Suspension
Metal Arch
Metal Cantilever
Concrete: Concrete Arch Concrete Slab Concrete Beam Rigid Frame
Other Type Name

DESCRIPTION:

Describe Setting:

Bridge 2054, built in 1935, carries two lanes of traffic eastbound and westbound on MD 214 across the Patuxent River near Davidsonville in Anne Arundel County. The Patuxent River runs in a generally north to south direction at this location. This bridge is situated just north of the Patuxent River Park in a very wooded area.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

This structure is a single-span, steel, Parker, thru-truss bridge. The truss has eight panels at 25'-0" each for a span length of 200' between bearings. All vertical members and diagonals are I-shaped. The top chord is comprised of back to back channels with a top cover plate. The bottom chords and all end posts are face to face channels. All connections are riveted. The floor system longitudinal stringers and transverse beams are I-shaped. The reinforced concrete deck provides a 30' clear roadway width between 9" curbs. The bridge railing consists of a longitudinal channel section and a tubular hand railing. The substructure consists of two reinforced concrete abutments and wingwalls which bear on timber piles.

Discuss Major Alterations:

HISTORY.

No notable alterations have been made to this bridge.

IIIOI OILII				
This date is: A Source of date			County bridge files/inspection form	<u>X</u>
	lge built? To pr nal transportation		g for MD 214 across the Patuxent River, to n	nee
WHO was the	designer			
WHO was the	builder Roanok	e Iron and Bridge Works	s - builder and/or designer	
WHY was brid	dge altered? [cl	eck N/A X if not a	pplicable]	
Was bridge bu This bridge was Movement.	tilt as part of org as built under th	anized bridge-building e aegis of the State R	g campaign? Yes X No Roads Commission as part of the Good Ro	oad

SURVEYOR/HISTORIAN ANALYSIS:

This bridge may have National Register significance for its association with:

A - Events X B- Person _____

C- Engineering/architectural character X

Was bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history? No_Yes \underline{X} If yes, what event?

This bridge was one of a small but significant number of metal truss bridges erected in Maryland from the 1920s through the 1940s. Its heavy, solid construction reflects continuing advances in metal truss technology and fabrication early in the century, and the almost unyielding reliability of substantial trusses for major crossings. Such bridges were built throughout the state during the period, particularly in the early 1930s, as part of the Good Roads Movement promoted by the State Roads Commission.

Many of them retain plaques indicating that they were built under the aegis of the Commission, even though they were designed by private bridge building firms.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth & development of the area? No ____ Yes _X ___ If yes, what impact?

Because of their solidity and reliability, metal truss bridges with heavy members such as this one were often utilized in Maryland from the 1920s through the 1940s at long crossings. Multi-lane facilities carrying major thoroughfares, they had not only a significant impact on local growth, but facilitated regional residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial development.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation? No \underline{X} Yes _____ Would the bridge add to _____ or detract from _____ historic & visual character of the possible district?

Is the bridge a significant example of its type? No _ Yes X ____ If yes, why?

Between 1840 and the Civil War, under the impetus of a rapidly expanding railroad system, the majority of early American metal truss bridge forms were patented and introduced. In Maryland, the earliest metal truss bridges carried rail lines, which required their great strength and reliability. From the War through the end of the century, metal truss technology was improved, steel began to replace iron, and the use of trusses was expanded to carry roads as well as rail lines.

Numerous metal truss bridges were erected in Baltimore, the original hub of the metal truss in the state, from the 1850s through the 1880s. From Baltimore, the use of the metal truss spread out to other parts of the state, particularly the Piedmont and Appalachian Plateau. Many bridge and iron works were established in the eastern United States to design and fabricate truss members, which were then shipped to sites in Maryland and elsewhere to be erected. More than 15 different bridge companies located in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, and Indiana are known to have shipped metal truss bridges to sites throughout Maryland. Bridges were first fabricated in Maryland, and shipped to sites within the state and beyond, by the companies of seminal bridge designer Wendel Bollman.

Early in the twentieth century, concrete bridges began to compete with metal truss bridges throughout the state at small to moderate crossings. With the development of uniform standards for concrete bridges by the State Roads Commission in the 1910s, the construction of smaller metal truss bridges significantly declined throughout the state. The metal truss still remained the bridge of choice for large crossings, however. In the 1920s, heavier members began to be used at these bridges. Reflecting even heavier load requirements and increased lengths, metal truss bridges erected in the state in the 1930s and 1940s were heavy and solid, rather than light and delicate like their late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century predecessors.

The Pratt truss bridge, Maryland's most common surviving early truss type, was patented in 1844 by Thomas and Caleb Pratt. The Pratt has diagonals extended across one panel in tension and verticals in compression, except for hip verticals immediately adjacent to the inclined end posts of the bridge. Between 1868 and 1871 a subtype, the Parker truss, was developed in a series of patents filed by C.H. Parker. The Parker truss is a Pratt truss with an inclined rather than horizontal top chord. It was popular for longer span bridges well into the twentieth century. Maryland examples include bridges 2054 (1935) in Anne Arundel County, B-54 (1934) in Baltimore County, and F-506 (1908) in Frederick County.

This bridge was erected during one of the three key periods (1840-1860, 1860-1900, and 1900-1960) of bridge construction in Maryland. Built in 1935, it falls within the period 1900-1960. During this era, metal truss highway bridges became increasingly standardized. Also during this period, smaller and moderate length trusses were gradually replaced by reinforced concrete structures, and the modern metal girder bridge, which could easily be widened, replaced the metal truss bridge at all but the largest approaches and crossings. Built after 1930, it characterized by heavy solid members, rather than the relatively delicate members that characterized its late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century predecessors

Does bridge retain integrity [in terms of National Register] of important elements described in Context Addendum? No $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ Yes $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$

Is bridge a significant example of work of manufacturer, designer and/or engineer? No__ Yes_X

In the early twentieth century, metal truss bridges were largely supplanted in the state by concrete and, later, metal girder structures. The old metal fabricators disappeared during this period. They were replaced, in the 1920s and 1930s, by a new if less numerous generation of metal truss fabricators. Among the new bridge companies active in Maryland was the Roanoke Iron and Bridge Company of Roanoke, Virginia, which erected long Pratt, Parker, and camelback bridges throughout the state in the 1920s and 1930s. These include bridges 2054 (1935) in Anne Arundel County, 7055 (1932) in Cecil County, and 10018 (1934) in Frederick County. This bridge is typical of their work in Maryland.

Should bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made? No X Yes

It is believed that no further evaluation is necessary to determine the eligibility of this bridge for listing in the National Register. However, additional research, which could be conducted as part of any future National Register nomination prepared for the bridge, might provide further information about its history and environs.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bridge inspection reports and files of the Maryland State Highway Administration.

County survey files of the Maryland Historical Trust.

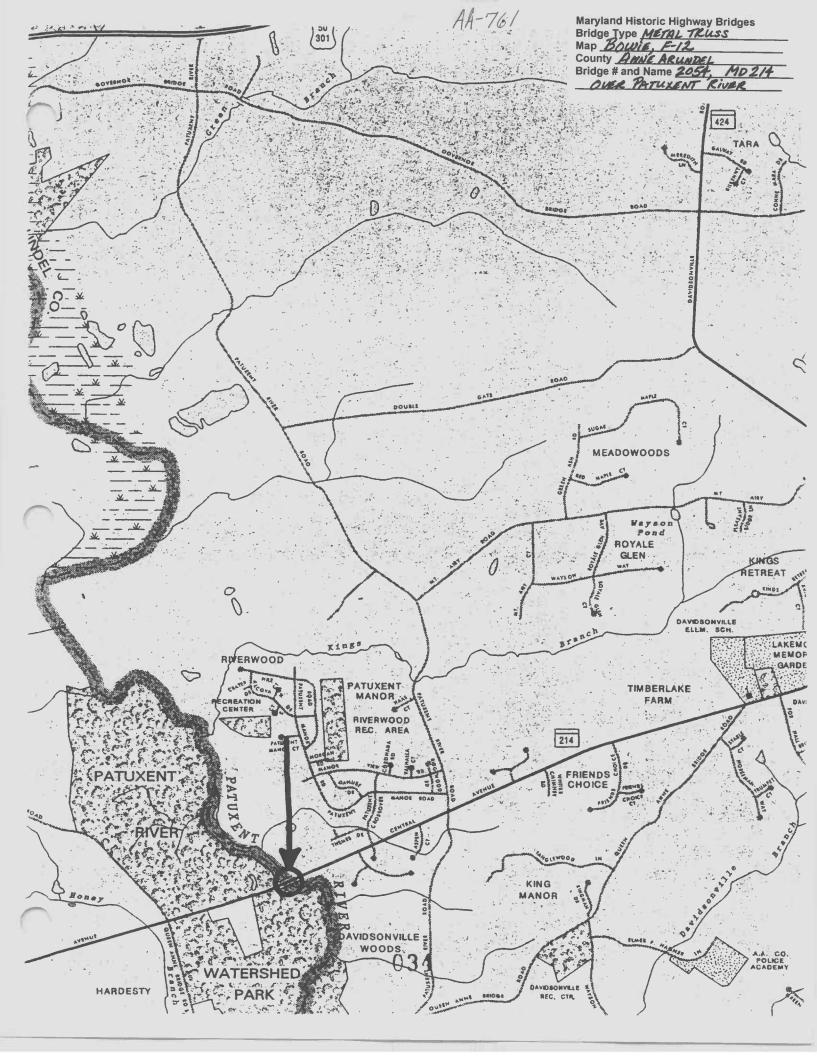
Jackson, Donald H. Great American Bridges and Dams. Washington, D.C: The Preservation Press, 1968

P.A.C. Spero & Company and Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. *Historic Bridges in Maryland: Historic Context Report*. Prepared for the Maryland State Highway Administration, September, 1994.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. *Historic Highway Bridges in Pennsylvania*. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1986.

SURVEYOR/SURVEY INFORMATION:

Date bridge recorded 1/95	<u></u>	
Name of surveyor <u>Walter King/Ma</u> Organization/Address GREINER,	arvin Brown INC., 2219 York Road, Suite 200, Timonium, Maryland 21	093-
3111		
Phone number 410-561-0100	FAX number 410-561-1150	





Inventory	#	AA-76

Name 2054-MO214 OVER PATUXENT RIVER COUNTY/State ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY/MO
Name of Photographer WALLY KING Date 195
Location of Negative SHR
Description WEST A PPROACH WOKING EAST
Number 44 of 18 1 of 5



Inventory # AA-76)	
Name 2054- MO 214 OVER PATU County/State ANNE ARUNDEL CUL Name of Photographer WALLY KI Date 195	UNTY/MD
Location of Negative SNA	
Description EAST APPROACH WEST	LOOKING
Number 15 of 18 Z of 5	



Inventory # AA-761	
Name 2054- MD214 OVER PATURENT RIVE County/State ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY/MD Name of Photographer WALLY 141NG Date 195	-
Location of Negative SHA	_
Description NORTH ELEVATION	_

Number 16 or 19 3 of 5



Inventory # AA-761
Name 2054-MO214 OVER PATUXENT RIVER County/State ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY/MD Name of Photographer WALLY KING Date 1195
Location of Negative SRA
Description SOUTH ELEVATION
Number 17 of 18 4 of 5



Inventory # AA - 76)
Name 2054- MO214 OVER PATHXENT RIVE
County/State ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY/MD
Name of Photographer WALLY KING
Date 1195
Location of Negative SHA

Description "ROANDRE IRON AND BRIDGE WORKS" PLAQUE

Number 180118 5 of 5

AA-761
Patuxent River/Maryland 214 Bridge
Davidsonville vicinity
public (unrestricted)

1923

This bridge carries Maryland Route 214 over the Patuxent River outside of Davidsonville, Maryland. It is a single camelback steel through truss, 200 feet in length, with a roadway 30 feet in width.

Erected in 1923, this structure was built by the Roanoke Iron and Bridge Company of Roanoke, Virginia, using the designs of the Maryland State Roads Commission. It is one of two historic truss bridges -- part of Maryland's state road system in Anne Arundel County, and one of 26 bridges of the same structural type throughout the state road network -- identified by the Maryland Historical Trust for the Maryland Department of Transportation in a jointly conducted survey done during 1980-81.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME			
HISTORIC			
AND/OR COMMON			
Maryland 214 over Patuxent R	iver Bridge		
LOCATION			
STREET & NUMBER		\$\$ \$\\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\	444 y \$44
SW of Davidsonville			
CITY, TOWN	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONA	AL DISTRICT
Ma¥yland —	VIOLITY OF	Anné ^{ou} AFunde	1
CLASSIFICATION	\		
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRESENT USE
DISTRICTXPUBLIC	_XOCCUPIED	AGRICULT	
BUILDING(S)PRIVATESTRUCTUREBOTH	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERC	
SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE	EDUCATIO	
OBJECTIN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNM	
BEING CONSIDERED	_¥ES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRI	
	CONNECTED		WE WINDIGHTON WATER
OWNER OF PROPERTY	_NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
	NO		OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate STREET & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY TOWN Baltimore	_NO	_MILITARY Telephone #	OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate STREET & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore	NO tion DOT	MILITARY Telephone # Maryland 21	OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate STREET & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRI	NO tion DOT	_MILITARY Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #:	OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate STREET & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore	NO tion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION	MILITARY Telephone # Maryland 21	OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate STREET & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY. TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRICTORY COURTHOUSE.	NO tion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION	_MILITARY Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #:	OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate STREET & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Anne Arundel Co. STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN	NO tion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION	Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #: Folio #:	E 01 Zip code
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate Street & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY. TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRICULATION AND LEGAL DESCRICULATION AND ADDITES	_NO tion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION Courthouse	Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #: Folio #:	OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate STREET & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Anne Arundel Co. STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN	_NO tion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION Courthouse	Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #: Folio #:	E 01 Zip code
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate Street & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND ADMINISTREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN ADMINISTREE CITY, TOWN ADMINISTREET & REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING	_NO tion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION Courthouse	Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #: Folio #:	_OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate Street & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Anne Arundel Construction Annapolis REPRESENTATION IN EXISTINATION IN EXISTINATION.	Lion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION Courthouse NG SURVEYS	Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #: Folio #: Maryland 2	E 1401
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate Street & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Anne Arundel Construction Annapolis REPRESENTATION IN EXISTINATION IN EXISTINATION.	Lion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION Courthouse NG SURVEYS	Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #: Folio #:	E 1401
OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME State Highway Administrate Street & NUMBER 301 West Preston Street CITY, TOWN Baltimore LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL DESC	Lion DOT VICINITY OF IPTION Courthouse NG SURVEYS	Telephone # Maryland 21 Liber #: Folio #: Maryland 2	E 1401

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

XUNALTERED

__ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

≚GOOD __FAIR __RUINS

.X_ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This bridge carries Maryland Route 214 over the Patuxent River in a generally E-W direction, and consists of a single camelback steel through truss of 200', with a roadway of 30'. All connections are riveted.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	X ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	*_TRANSPORTATION
x1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		invention		
SPECIFIC DAT	TES 1923	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT Roanoke Iron	& Bridge Co.
STATEMENT (OF SIGNIFICANCE		Roanoke, Va.	SRC Design

(See M/DOT Survey general significance, attached).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of the Bureau of Bridge Design, State Highway Administration, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Md. Drawer 99

Condit, Carl, American Building Art, 20th Century; New York, Oxford University Press. 1961.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

Quadrangle Name: Bowie

Quadrangle Scale: 1: 24 000

UTM References: 18.354920.4307620

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

N/A

STATE

COUNTY

MFORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Hnedak/M/DOT Survey Manager

ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Maryland Historical Trust	1980	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE	
21 State Circle	(301) 269-2438	
CITY OR TOWN	STAYE	
Annapolis	Maryland 21401	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

GENERAL BRIDGE SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of bridges in Maryland is a difficult and subtle thing to gauge. The Modified significance criteria of the National Register, which are the standard for these judgements in Maryland, as in most states, must be broadly applied to allow for most of these structures. particular the 50 year rule which specifies a minimum age for structures can be waived, and is more commonly done so for engineering structures than for others. Questions of uniqueness and typicality, exemplary types, etc., must set aside for now, because they presuppose a wider knowledge of the entire resources than is presently available. Indeed, this survey is an initial step toward understanding the extent to which Maryland's bridges are part of her cultural resources. Aesthetic considerations may have to be sidestepped entirely, for such structures as these are generally considered mundane and ordinary at best, and sometimes a negative landscape feature, by the layman. It does take a specialized aesthetic sense to appreciate such structures on visual grounds, but a case for visual significance can be made. The remaining criteria are those of historical associations. The relative youth of most of these structures precludes a strong likelihood of participation to events and lives of import. The best generalization can be made for most bridges is that they are built on site of early crossings, developing from fords and ferries through covered bridges and wooden trusses to their present state. This significance inheres in the site, however, and in most cases would not be diminished by the adsense of the present structure.

These criteria may also be addressed positively. primary significance of these bridges, those which were built between the two World Wars, consists in their association with rapidly changing modes and trends in transportation in America during the period. The earliest of them saw the appearance of the automobile and its rise as the preëminent means of getting Americans from place to place. Roads were being improved for increased speeds and capacity, and bridges, as potential weak links on the system, became particularly important. The technology for producing them was not new, and would not change significantly during the Accordingly, great numbers of easily, quickly and period. relatively cheaply built concrete slab, beam and arch bridges were built to span the samll crossings, or were multiplied to cover longer crossings where height was no problem.

Truss bridges with major structural members of compound beams, of either the Warren or Pratt types, while more expensive and considered more intrusive on the landscape, were built to span the larger gaps.

With an aesthetic which allowed concrete slab bridges to have classical balustrades, or the application of a jazz-age concrete relief; with the considerable variety possible in the construction of medium sized metal trusses; and with the lack of nationwide standards for highway bridge design, the resulting body of structures displays considerable variety. The sameness of appearance of currently produced highway bridges leads one to believe this variety will not reappear. For that reason alone it is wise to keep watch over our existing bridges. Regardless of ones taste and aesthetic preference, one must be admitted that these older bridges add their variety and visual interest to the environment as a whole, and that it is often the case that their replacement by a standard highway bridge results in a visual hole in the land-scape.

In situations requiring decisions of potential effect on these structures, they should receive some consideration. As the recording and subsequent understanding of Maryland's Cultural resources grows, they will be recognized as a significant part of that heritage.

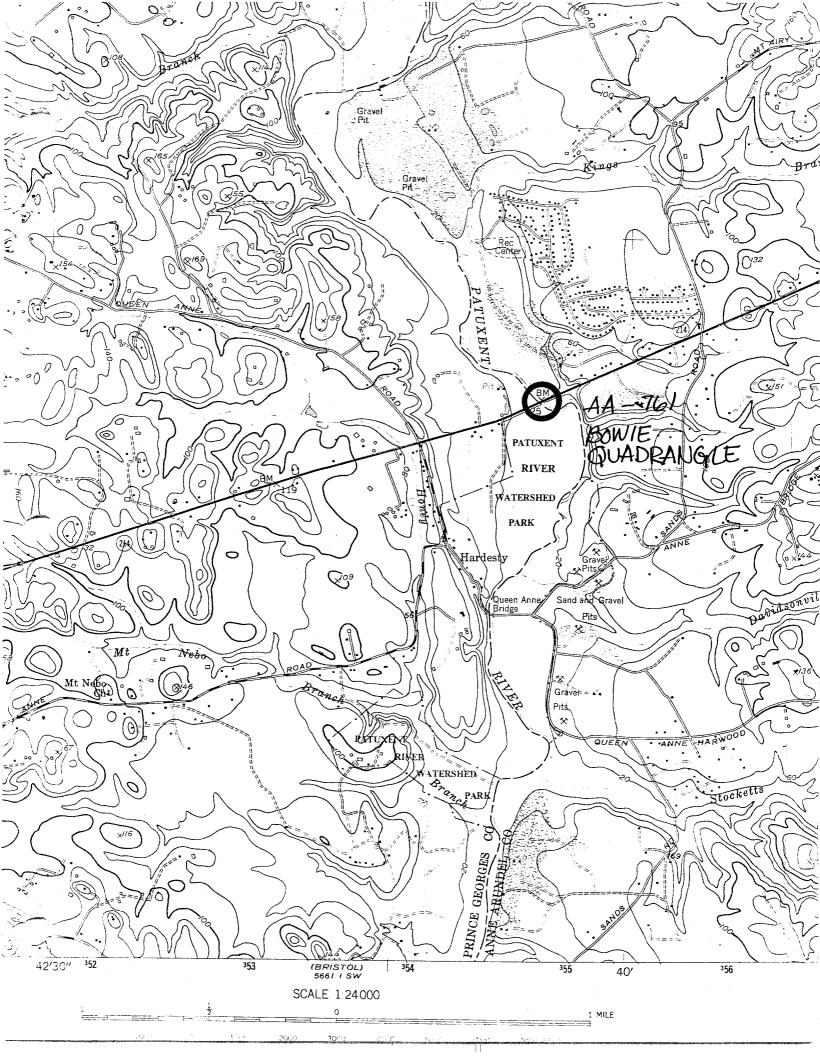
It should be noted that two non-negligible classes of structure have been omitted from this set. The first is the huge number of concrete slab or beam bridges of an average of twenty feet or less in length. These are so nearly ubiquitous and of such minor visual impact (they are often easy to drive across without noticing) that they were not inventoried. They are considered in the general recommendations section of the final report of this survey, however.

The second category is that of the "great" bridges, the huge steel crossings of the major waterways. While they are awesome and aesthetically appealing, they are not included in this inventory because they do not share the problems of their more modest counterparts. They do not lack for recognition, they have not been technologically outmoded, and are in no danger of disappearing through replacement. In a sense, they are not as rare; hundreds of

these great bridges are known nationally, and there is little doubt as to the position of any one bridge with— in national spectrum. There seems little point in in— cluding them with the larger inventory of bridges. From an arbitrary point of view, their dates are outside the 1935 limit which we set for the consideration of bridges. We have departed from that limit on occasion, but will not in this case. These bridges, too, will be considered in the final report.

Moveable bridges deserve a special note regarding their significance. They are rare, and all but the most recent of them have been listed by this survey by virtue of that fact alone. They are, by their nature as intermittent impediments to the smooth flow of traffic, threatened. We rarely tolerate disruptions to what we perceive as our progress. This has been demonstrated recently by the replacement of the drawbridge at Denton, on one of the major routes to the Atlantic Coast from the rest of Maryland.

However much we are inconvenienced by them, we must admit that moveable bridges contribute a share of interest to the landscape. As with significance judgements in general, we here enter a realm which is governed by taste and opinion. Some of us might not enjoy being forced to site back for a while to look at the surroundings which we would otherwise totally ignore, especially if the engine is in danger of boiling over. But there are those who are fascinated by the slow rise of a great chunk of roadway, moved by quit, often invisible machinery; who are amused by the tip of the mast which skims the top of the temporary wall; or who reflect on the nobility inherent in a river and the fact that we have not subdued every waterway with our autos, while knowing that we can if we want to.





AA-761 MD 214/Patuxent River M/DOT HNedak/Meyer Spring 1980